

GOPHER BITES



Town of Eston Newsletter

Buy local. Sell local. Invest in Eston!

It's an Election Year...

Exciting News! With the 2024 Election just around the corner, on **Wed, Nov 13**, it's time to think about our community's future. Serving on Council demands a significant time commitment, but it's also a chance to make a difference. Join us in attending meetings, engaging in committee discussions, and representing our community at events, conferences, and webinars. **Together, we can be the driving force for positive change. Be part of the solution!**



Prairie West Historical Centre

The **Prairie West Historical Centre** is a museum and gallery located in a restored farm home, formerly known as the Evans House. The Heritage Gallery is an art gallery which features artists with local connections, as well as a Picasso print. The museum out buildings are completed with a one-room schoolhouse, a grains display, a homesteader's shack and the former Acadia school barn. The museum is located at 946 2nd St SE in Eston and is open for touring by appointment only. Call 306-430-8730 to book your tour!

Eston & District Regional Library

Did you know you can purchase books and videos at the library for as little as 10 cents? Did you know there are apps available to borrow books online as well as other online resources? Visit www.wheatland.sk.ca/eresources for more info.

Thanks to **Cassie Stocks** for her dedicated service and contributions during her 6 years as the head Librarian. Cassie's hard work, creativity and commitment have been greatly appreciated. We are sad to see you go and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We would like to introduce and welcome **Veronica Ryland** as the newly appointed Head Librarian. Welcome to the team!

Upcoming Events

- Mon Mar 4 - **Nurture & Grow Daycare Info & Registration** - 6:30
Emerge Mezz at AGT Community Centre
- Thu Mar 7 - **Bingo** - 7 pm Wheatland Plus 50 Club
- Wed Mar 13 - **Town Council Meeting** - 7 pm Town Office
- Mar 15-17 - **Annual Open Bonspiel** - contact Sandy 306-962-7572
- Sat Mar 16 - **After the Bell Supply Drive**
- Sun Mar 17 - **EERP St. Patrick's Day Fish Fry** - 7pm AGT CC
- Thu Mar 21 - **Bingo** - 7 pm Wheatland Plus 50 Club
- Mar 22-23 - **Rec Hockey Tournament** - Garrett 306-962-7748
- Wed Mar 27 - **Town Council Meeting** - 7 pm Town Office
- Sat Mar 30 - **After the Bell Easter Egg Hunt-1-3 pm HH Park-RSVP**
- Sat Apr 13 - **Sports Celebrity Dinner** - AGT Community Center

Town of Eston Office & Wheatland Regional Library will be closed

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

Monday, April 1 - Easter Monday

Hiring for Eston Lions Pool

We are hiring for the 2024 pool season.

The Town of Eston, RM of Snipe Lake along with Eston Sheet Metal are covering costs of lifeguard training and courses!

Please contact Garrett for more information (306) 962-7748.

This is a job that will take you places! You could work while you are continuing your education in another town. It is a good start to building your resume and a great way to spend a summer!

- Pool Manager
- Assistant Pool Manager
- Senior & Junior Lifeguards



Full and part-time positions are available. Drop off your resume with a cover letter to the Town Office or recreation@eston.ca.

Sports Celebrity Dinner - Saturday April 13

The Recreation Committee will be hosting a **Celebrity Sports Dinner and Auction** to raise funds for our Fairgrounds and Swimming Pool. emcee for the evening will be **Ryan Tunall**. Scheduled speakers: **Sheldon Kennedy** (Order of Canada recipient, 8 yrs in NHL, World Jr Gold Medalist); **Dave "The Hammer" Schultz** (2x Stanley Cup Champ) and **Steve MacIntyre**. (Native of Brock, SK, 3 seasons NHL) Catered by Jackie's Delicious Delights.

Tickets \$100/each; table of 8 for \$750 available at the Town Office.

Ball Registration

Ball registration is now open. Forms will be available at the school, Town Office, or online at www.eston.ca. Fees:

T-Ball, Rally Cap, U9 female - \$70; Female U11-U18 - \$85

Co-ed U11-U18 - \$110; Hat - \$20 **Registration deadline: Wed April 3;**

Payment must be received in full in order to play.

KidSport

KidSport helps children of families facing financial obstacles to participate in sports, so that no kid is left on the sidelines. KidSport applications **must** be received prior to the activity registration deadline. Forms available online at www.eston.ca or at the office. For any questions or more info, please contact Garrett, recreation@eston.ca or (306) 962-7748.

Watch for Information on "After the Bell"

After the Bell is an after school program for children between the ages of 6-12. in Eston starting April 1. Further information will be coming regarding the details. Check our website www.eston.ca and social media for updates. as well as the April edition of Gopher Bites.

Town Office

Mon-Thurs: 9 am-12 & 1-5 pm; Fri: 10 am-12 & 1-5pm

Library

Mon-Tue & Thur: 2-5:30 pm; Wed: 2-8 pm; Fri: 10-noon & 3-5:30 pm

Landfill

Mon 9 am-4 pm; Tue 12-4 pm; Sat 9 am-4 pm

**** Landfill hours change April 1**

Mon-9 am-4 pm; Tue-9 am-1 pm; Thu-2-7 pm; Sat-9 am- pm





Town of Eston 2024 Strategic Priorities Highlights

As of January 2024

Overarching Principles

Decisions and projects will be approached with the following themes in mind:

Continuous Improvement

We will strive for excellence and continual improvement in our activities, aiming to enhance both our performance and methodologies each day.

Customer Service

We will initiate changes with the aim of improving and enhancing the overall experience for the end user

Planning

We will undergo sound planning processes that will assist in preparing us for the future and maintaining a sustainable community

Communication

We will strive to improve communication and connectivity within our organization, externally, with crucial partners and stakeholders.

Planning

- 1) Pool, as noted in the 2023 updates. We have assessed two options and are currently working on a third to ensure a comprehensive exploration of all possibilities. The two initial options Council feels are presently cost-prohibitive, prompting the exploration of a third option.
- 2) Investigation into Garbage Truck Services: Given the rising costs associated with Loraas, we are considering returning to in-house garbage pick up. This not only introduces another job opportunity within our community but also contributes to supporting local services.
- 3) Working on a Back-Alley enhancement plan.
- 4) Developing a street sweeping plan to share with the community, outline which streets will undergo the process and the scheduled timeline.
- 5) In the process of formulating a five-year sidewalk plan that delineates which sidewalks will undergo replacement or removal in accordance with the sidewalk policy.
- 6) Exploring alternative approaches for road maintenance and addressing potholes.
- 7) Landfill, develop a plan for the utilization of concrete at the landfill.

Capital and Infrastructure

- 8) Finalizing the water meters/endpoint project, with 20 units remaining for completion.
- 9) Proceed with the sewer lining project, with an annual estimated budget of \$65,000.
- 10) Persist with sidewalk repair and/or replacement efforts, aiming for a \$30,000 budget in the year 2024, as securing a contractor was challenging in 2023.
- 11) Fairground project by incorporating two new ball diamonds and implementing an irrigation solution. A Celebrity Dinner is scheduled for Saturday April 13, 2024, aimed at generating funds to support this initiative.
- 12) Investigate the potential need for boiler replacements at the AGT Community Centre.
- 13) Landfill, relocate the EcoCentre at the landfill to the concrete pad nearer to the scale house.
- 14) Upgrade equipment in Transportation by replacing the Skid Steer and obtaining an additional mower.
- 15) Provide some care and attention to the parks and focus on improving the irrigation system.

Serving the Community, Programming and Events

- 16) Explore and introduce fresh programming and camps in the recreation offerings.
- 17) Summer Bull Bash Minor Sports Day & Bull-A-Rama, a combined event with Town of Eston & District and the Rodeo Committee, Friday June 14, 2024.
- 18) Implement after-school programming in conjunction with the Library offerings.
- 19) Additional programming at the Library tailored for both youth and adults.
- 20) Continue to improve and update the website.
- 21) Continue to educate, promote and share information in the community.
- 22) Continue to seek and explore grant opportunities.

Governance and Policy

- 23) Continue the Joint Governance Committee collaboration with the R.M. of Snipe Lake to assess joint bylaws.
- 24) Evaluate and revise essential bylaws and policies across all departments.
- 25) Collaborate on Joint Emergency measures with the R.M. of Snipe Lake No. 259.
- 26) Initiate the revival of the Inter-Agency Group.

Note that operations for the Health Care and Cemetery departments are overseen by the R.M. of Snipe Lake No. 259. For information on priorities for those departments, please contact the RM directly.

Additional Information

- Continue the ongoing commitment to allocating funds to reserves, ensuring financial preparedness for the upcoming Pavement project. This strategic approach involves diligently setting aside resources to support the planned improvements and maintenance of our road infrastructure, thereby promoting long-term sustainability and the overall well-being of our community.
- The delivery of the Fire Truck is anticipated in 2024.
- A new Zamboni will be in operation by the upcoming hockey season. The sponsorship program, initiated in 2017 with an annual allocation for the Zamboni, has successfully accumulated sufficient funds for the purchase. The existing Zamboni will be put up for tender.
- Staffing, inquire within:
 - The Eston & District Regional Landfill is seeking a seasonal position for the Landfill April to September.
 - Lifeguards are needed for the 2024 pool season, offering competitive wages. Courses and certification expenses are fully covered. Please contact us for more information.
 - Summer Camp position, Summer student positions available
 - Part-time library position open

The year 2024 marks an election year. For detailed information on the election process and the roles/responsibilities of the Mayor and Council, please visit www.eston.ca/2024-election.Council, please visit www.eston.ca/2024-election.